



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY PHYSICAL DISABILITY AGENCY
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AHRC-DZB

12 July 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARD PRESIDENTS

SUBJECT: Policy/Guidance Memorandum #10: Disability Disposition of Soldiers Claiming Gulf War illness

1. Supersession: This memorandum supersedes USAPDA Policy/Guidance Memorandum #10 dated 25 February 2005, subject: Disability Disposition of Soldiers with Symptoms Associated with Gulf War Illness.

2. Purpose: To provide guidance for compliance with the requirement of DoD Instruction 1332.38 for the Medical Evaluation Board (MEB) to include documentation of a Soldier's participation in the Comprehensive Clinical Evaluation Program (CCEP).

3. Reference: DoD Instruction 1332.38, Enclosure 4, para E4.15.2 (page 78, Gulf War Cases).

4. Background: The reference at para 3, above, requires the MEB on Soldiers who participated in the CCEP to include a summary of the CCEP findings in the MEB and copies of all CCEP documentation. The CCEP no longer exists and was replaced by the Deployment Health Center Program.

5. Policy/guidance:

a. The DoDI requirement for inclusion of CCEP documentation in the MEB of a Soldier who participated in the CCEP remains in effect notwithstanding the discontinuation of the CCEP.

b. The requirement applies even though the CCEP-related condition is not the condition for which the Soldier is being referred to the MEB.

c. The DoD requirement is met when the following actions are taken by the Military Treatment Facility (MTF).

(1) The MTF will review the medical records of those Soldiers pending a MEB who served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War and include in or with the MEB a summary of the CCEP findings as well as copies of all CCEP documents.

(2) If the medical records indicate that the Soldier was enrolled in the program, but there are no copies of the CCEP documentation, the MTF will contact Ms. Marie Martinucci, Deployment Health Directorate (ASD(HA)), (703) 578-8565, to confirm the existence of the record. If the record is confirmed, Ms. Martinucci will fax or e-mail to the MTF a copy of the applicable index page. The MTF will then request a copy of the Soldier's CCEP file from the National Records Personnel Center (NPRC), St. Louis, Mo. (NPRC maintains the CCEP

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records in a separate filing system to comply with the legal requirements of the DoD system of records.) To request copies of CCEP records, prepare a letter on MTF office letterhead clearly stating the request is for CCEP records and attach the index page provided by Ms. Martinucci. The letter must include the service member's full name and social security number and be signed by the MTF requester. Also add that the MTF requests the records be forwarded by fax and include the fax number and the phone number for the MTF point of contact. Fax the letter to NPRC, ATTN: Pearlene Foster, FAX #: 314-801-9048,

(3) If there is no indication in the medical records that the Soldier was enrolled in the program, but the Soldier indicates that he or she was, the MTF will contact Ms. Marie Martinucci, Deployment Health Directorate (ASD(HA)), (703) 578-8565, to confirm Soldier's enrollment. If the Soldier is in the database, the MTF will request the record from NPRC as described above. If the Soldier is not in the database, an MFR of that fact will be included in the MEB packet and the case forwarded to the PEB. In the instance of a case not being in the DoD data base, there is no need to delay forwarding the case to the PEB by asking the NPRC to search their files.

c. The requirement per the superseded Policy/Guidance Memorandum #10 for the PEB to return cases to the MTF when a Soldier who had not participated in the CCEP is now claiming a "Gulf War Illness" is hereby cancelled.

6. This Agency is inquiring concerning the MTFs being given access to the DoD data base. Until access is granted, the MTFs need to contact DoD as described in para 4c(3) above before submitting a request to the NPRC for CCEP records

7. Point of contact: Dr. David Armitage, Senior Medical Advisor; (202) 782-3016; DSN 662-3016; David.Armitage@na.amedd.army.mil

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